

Currently in the works:



Patient Protection

When a patient has a grievance against a health care provider, the first stop for arbitration is usually a state commission that decides if any negligence or misconduct occurred. Unfortunately, these commissions often consist of the professional's peers, which can mean an inherent bias against the patient. I want to change that. These should be public safety commissions, not trade networks. My legislation would require that any

state commissions that regulate health care professionals consist of a majority of impartial citizens. I believe the public deserves the first consideration when there's an accusation of wrongdoing.

Spouse Protection

There's a disturbing trend in our state when it comes to domestic violence (DV) arrests: Too often when law enforcement makes an arrest based on an accusation of DV, the accused can be back on the street within a day seeking the victim out once again, leading to an unsafe situation. I want to make sure that the alleged person has a commonsense "cooling-down" period, and will not be released until they are arraigned by the district court judge, thus helping avoid the high rate of reoccurrence.

Please join me at a town hall meeting coming soon. We'll discuss the state budget, which may still require more cuts to balance in the years ahead, as well as issues important to you and our community.

State Representative **Tom Campbell** 2nd Legislative District (R)

Representing citizens of Pierce County, including McKenna, Rainier, Roy, Ft. Lewis, Spanaway, Orting, Graham and the City of Eatonville; and Yelm and Lawrence Lake in Thurston County.



Address:

334 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Phone: (360) 786-7912

E-mail: Campbell.Tom@leg.wa.gov

Check out my Legislative web page:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/campbell>

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:
1-800-562-6000

TTY (hearing-impaired hotline):
1-800-635-9993

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2009 SESSION WRAP-UP

State Representative
TOM CAMPBELL
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

TOWN HALL
MEETINGS!

Saturday,
Sept. 12th & 19th 2009
See front cover for details

State Representative
TOM CAMPBELL
2nd Legislative District



2009 SESSION WRAP-UP

Mark your
calendar:
**TOWN HALL
MEETINGS**

Please join me at a town hall meeting coming soon. We'll discuss the state budget, which may still require more cuts to balance in the years ahead, as well as issues important to you and our community.

September 12th, 2009

Yelm
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Yelm Public Safety Building
206 McKenzie Ave, SE

Eatonville
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Eatonville Library
206 Center Street NW

September 19th, 2009

Graham
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Graham Library
9202 224th St E

Orting
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Orting Multi Purpose Room
202 Washington Ave. S

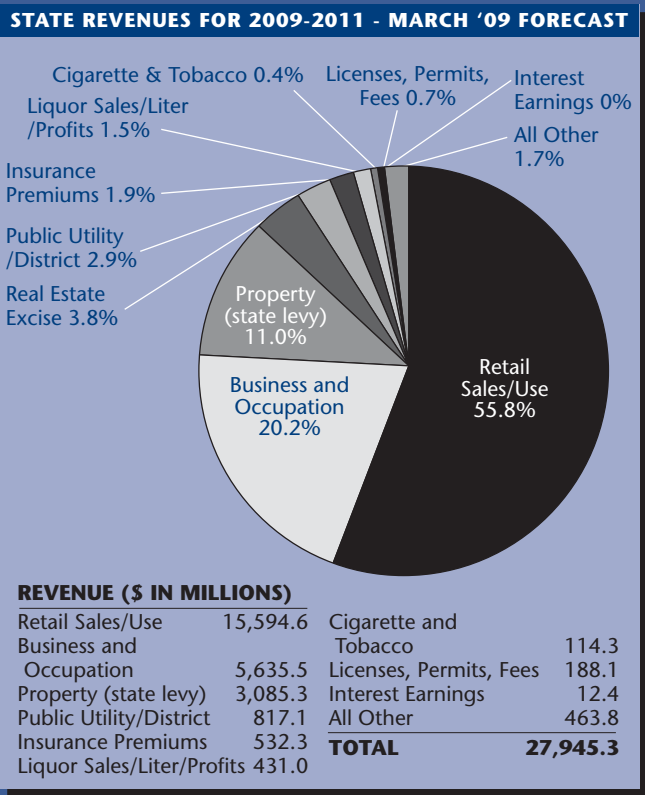
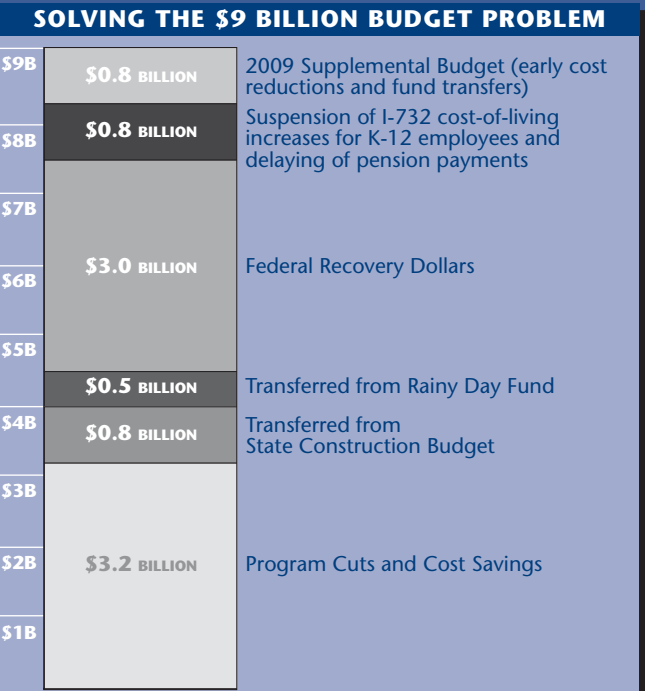
It's undoubtedly been a tumultuous period for all of us. Here in the community of Roy where I live, folks may have lost a job or scaled back their spending in order to compensate. We faced a similar budget situation in Olympia, where we were tasked with cutting back drastically on spending to make up for a huge revenue shortfall.

In my previous newsletter from early on in the 2009 legislative session, I tried to be very candid with you about the current economic situation facing our state and nation. Times are tough and tough decisions will have to be made, I said. But I would only support a budget that would leave certain priorities of government intact.

The truth is, the Operating Budget - the budget that supports most of our government's programs and services - we passed this year will harm too many people and programs that I believe are too important. While I am glad taxes weren't raised to balance a bloated budget, I couldn't vote for a budget that was balanced by cutting health care, education, and certain environmental health programs.

I remain hopeful that our state budget will see us through this recession. But unless we begin to see an uptick in the economy and revenue stream back into the state, I would expect to see the Legislature reconvene for a special session to cut even more services and spending in order to balance the budget. That's why I encourage you to attend my town hall meetings coming soon. It's your chance to make your voice heard, talk about the issues, find answers, and help set your state government's priorities.

Despite news from this legislative session that was grim for the most part, there were still some victories I'd like to share with you, especially victories for many local projects here in the 2nd Legislative District. Both the state's Capital Budget and Transportation Budget fund several needed construction projects in and around our region that will mean better service, better traffic relief, and better economic development in both the short and long term.



State Representative TOM CAMPBELL

2009 SESSION Wrap-Up



Gov. Gregoire signs into law Campbell's bill to allow surprise hospital checks by the Health Department without prior notification, to ensure hospitals are taking proper patient-safety precautions.

Good News for Health Care Patients



I'm pleased to report that, after years battling with the high-paid lobbyists of the medical industry, I've been successful at passing new protections for patients in hospitals and health care clinics around the state.

HB 1021, which received unanimous support in the Legislature, allows the Department of Health to conduct hospital inspections and audits **without prior notice given**. Previously, DOH was required to give notice four weeks in advance of any action. I believed, however, that giving a heads-up to hospitals defeats the purpose of an inspection. The only way to gauge true compliance with our health safety standards is to ensure the results of inspections reflect the reality of everyday practices in each hospital visited.

The bill I'm most proud of this session, HB 1123, requires new procedures for hospitals and other health care facilities to test for and prevent the spread of infections caused by methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

As many of you know, I've fought with doctors and hospital lobbyists for several years over these new guidelines to protect patients. They have complained about everything from the complexity to the cost of testing patients for MRSA. But statistics show that thousands of deaths occur every year when hospital patients contract this terrible flesh-eating bacteria called a "superbug" due to its drug-resistance. I firmly believe that the simple and inexpensive testing that are available now will be less expensive than dealing with the aftermath of prolonged illness, potential deaths, and the ensuing liability.

Transportation – Getting Pierce & Thurston Projects Back on Track



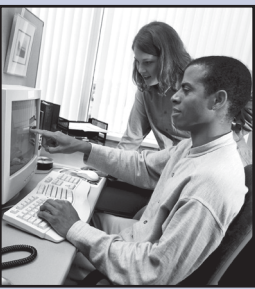
I led an effort amongst other Pierce County lawmakers to advocate for better treatment of local projects. And our cooperative effort paid off in dividends. We're totaling \$421 million dollars for this biennium in the Pierce County area. And over six years, we're looking at almost \$1.4 billion dollars out of a statewide \$7.5 billion budget. That's about as good as it's ever been.

Local projects once put on the backburner are going to see new pavement on the ground this summer, including \$11 million dedicated to the SR 510 Yelm Loop, \$67 million for the rights-of-way along 167 linking Puyallup to I-5, repaving along SR 161, and safety improvements along SR 507.

Among the larger regional projects, we are trimming two years off the I-5 HOV construction project from the King County border to the Tacoma Mall, with completion bumped from 2015 to 2013. Other projects receiving funding in the amended budget are the Nalley Valley interchange expansion; and construction of a new Puyallup River bridge on I-5 at the Port of Tacoma.

Not only is this great news for our roads and commerce, it's a great boost to our economy, putting people to work quickly on projects that we'll all benefit from in the long run. All told, we expect to create 43,000 construction jobs across Washington almost immediately and last throughout the duration of those projects.

Investing in Jobs and Infrastructure



Along with the Transportation Budget, the Capital Budget contains over \$12 million for projects in and around the 2nd Legislative District to help spur job growth and invest in our region's economic development.

Ten million of that is dedicated to improvements at the Bethel Skills Center, funding the build out of their long-term vision to provide a greater array of vocational programs, from robotic technology to criminal justice education. In a year that saw tough cuts made to some educational services, I am very proud of the fact that we were able to secure this money for Bethel, ensuring that we'll keep local kids in school earning skills that will prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow.

Looking forward to next session

Even though the next legislative session won't begin until January, I'm already working on new laws to protect you and your family from health scares and prevent domestic abuse.

Food Safety: It seems too frequently we read about another foodborne illness outbreak or contaminant in our food chain. I believe the state has a role in protecting the public's safety. If the food manufacturers won't do it, we must. That's why I propose creating a state commission on safe and healthful food. The commission will identify potential health problems and help prevent outbreaks; It will assist in notifying consumers of food product recalls, help enforce labeling and inspection laws, and provide consumers with better information on certain food products so they can make better informed choices.

Pre-Surgery MRSA Testing: In my ongoing effort to stop the spread of MRSA infections acquired in health facilities, I've introduced new legislation that would require patients to be tested for MRSA prior to surgery unless it's an emergency. I've recently had success cracking down on lax hospital procedures that have allowed the MRSA bacteria to become a dangerous health risk to those who must enter a hospital. The new procedure and guidelines I passed, combined with this pre-surgery testing, will go a long way in cutting down the rate of infection in Washington.